

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
15 August 2002 (15.08.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 02/062327 A2(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: A61K 31/045,  
31/121, A61P 25/00, 25/02, 25/08, 25/24

(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA02/00145

(22) International Filing Date: 7 February 2002 (07.02.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

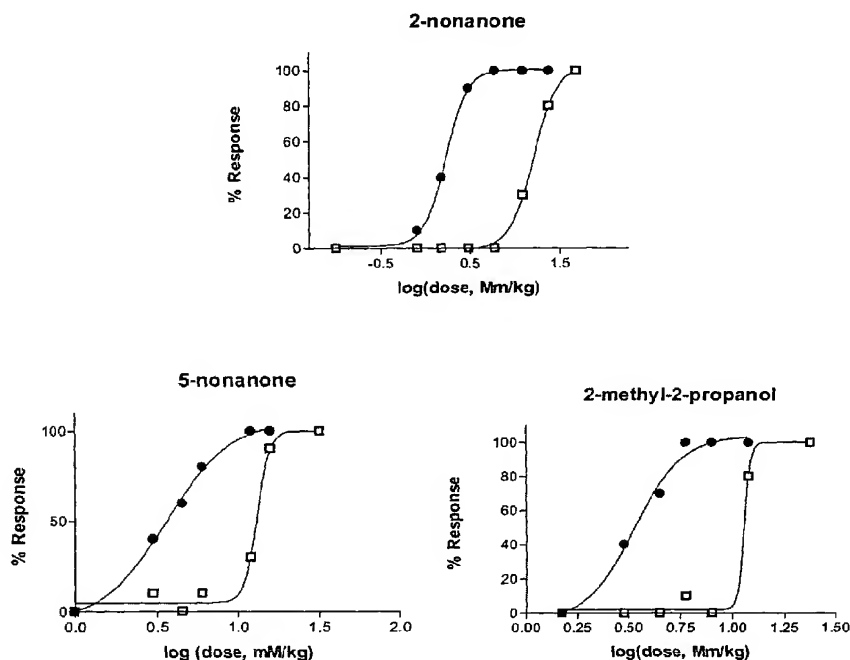
(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/266,883 7 February 2001 (07.02.2001) US

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401, 40th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3Y2 (CA).(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,  
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,  
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,  
SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ,  
VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR,  
GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent  
(BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR,  
NE, SN, TD, TG).**Published:**— without international search report and to be republished  
upon receipt of that reportFor two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD OF TREATING NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method of treating neurological disorders, such as epilepsy, comprising admin-  
istering an effect amount of an acetone derivative having the formula  $R_1-CR^3(X)-R^2$ , to an animal in need thereof. Such acetone  
derivatives show higher anticonvulsant activity and improved therapeutic indexes over acetone itself.

**TITLE: Method of Treating Neurological Disorders**

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to methods of treating neurological disorders including, but not limited to, epilepsy.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Epilepsy is a group of disorders in which spontaneous and recurrent seizures occur. It is one of the most common of neurological conditions, affecting approximately 1% of the population. Epileptic seizures manifest as disruptions of sensation, consciousness, and mental and motor function.

If uncontrolled, seizures can disrupt life to a debilitating degree; status epilepticus can result in permanent neuronal damage or death. In the USA alone, \$12.5 billion is spent annually on the direct and indirect costs of epileptic disorders. (For a review, see Annegers 1997.)

The most common therapy for epilepsy is treatment with anticonvulsant drugs. About 15 drugs are currently available. The mechanisms of the anticonvulsants are not completely understood but it appears that these drugs mediate their action either by limiting the spread of epileptic discharge (e.g., carbamazepine) or by elevating the seizure threshold (e.g., ethosuximide). This is achieved through one of three basic mechanisms: 1) binding to voltage-dependent sodium channels and suppressing sodium influx (e.g., carbamazepine and phenytoin); 2) binding to T-type calcium channels and suppressing calcium influx (e.g., ethosuximide); or 3) enhancement of GABAergic activity (e.g., benzodiazepines, vigabatrin). It is quite possible that drugs with activities against many different types of seizures (e.g., valproic acid and many others) have multiple mechanisms of action. (For a discussion of the anticonvulsant drugs, see Burnham 1998.)

The success of therapy with anticonvulsant drugs is high – about 50% of epileptic patients achieve complete seizure control, an additional 25% have significant improvement.

While the anticonvulsants help many epileptics, more than a third of patients continue to suffer from frightening and debilitating seizures despite the best drug therapy. Seizures which resist anticonvulsant therapy are called "intractable" or "refractory". There is a clear need for new agents  
5 that are effective against intractable seizures.

The introduction of several new anticonvulsants in the past decade raised hopes that intractable seizures might be brought under control. Unfortunately, the seizures that resisted the older drugs have, in general, resisted the new. This is probably because the newer drugs tend work by the  
10 same basic mechanisms as the older ones (Löscher 1998).

The following criteria are most important in development of new anticonvulsant drugs: (1) novel mechanism of action; (2) simple pharmacokinetic profile - no interactions with existing drugs; (3) efficacy across the broad spectrum of seizure types; (4) low toxicity and wide  
15 therapeutic window.

In the past several years several new drugs have emerged. The mechanism of action of felbamate (1993) is unknown, but may involve inhibition of N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) responses and potentiation of GABA A receptor. Gabapentin is a GABA analogue with an unknown  
20 mechanism of action, but may involve calcium and sodium channels. The mechanism of action of topirimate (1995) is unknown. It seems have no effect on the level of GABA or glutamate. Tiagabine (1997) is an uptake inhibitor of GABA. The mechanism of action of levetiracetam (1999) is unknown but, after 60 minutes of exposure, it gives rise to increased striata levels of GABA.  
25 Remacemide (Phase III) is another sodium channel and a low-affinity NMDA receptor blocker. Owing to its neuroprotective potential, remecemide has been also evaluated in other indications, including Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases (Bialer et al. 2001). Whether the development of these and other new drugs will succeed in combating intractable seizures is  
30 unknown at this moment.

*To solve the problem of intractable seizures, a novel mechanism of anticonvulsant action should be a principal feature of a new drug. It is*

known that such mechanisms exist, because intractable seizures *can* be controlled by certain non-drug therapies. One of these non-drug therapies is the ketogenic diet.

The ketogenic diet is a non-drug therapy, which is surprisingly  
5 effective in many different forms of epilepsy (Swink et al. 1997). Although traditionally used in children, it is also effective in adults (Sirven et al. 1999). The diet consists of 3 or 4 parts of fat to 1 part of carbohydrate plus protein (by weight). Due to the low levels of carbohydrate and protein, the ketogenic diet forces the body to utilize fat as its major energy source. This leads to the  
10 production of three ketones - acetoacetate, beta-hydroxybutyrate, and acetone - and a state of "ketosis" in the body (Prasad et al. 1996).

The ketogenic diet is an effective treatment for intractable epilepsy, and often the only alternative to surgery (Nordli & DeVivo 1997, Swink et al. 1997). Reports of its successful use over 70 years indicate that at  
15 least one third to two thirds of patients with intractable epilepsy benefit substantially from the diet (Keith 1963, Livingston 1972, Kinsman et al. 1992, Nigro et al. 1995, Lefevre & Aronson 2000). The most recent clinical studies have found that about 16% of patients become seizure free on the diet, that about 32% patients have a greater than 90% decrease in seizures, and that  
20 56% of patients have a greater than 50% reduction in seizures (Hemingway et al. 2001). Given that children are not put on the diet unless they have failed to respond to at least two major anticonvulsant drugs, the efficacy of the diet is impressive. In fact, the efficacy of the diet in treating intractable epilepsy significantly exceeds that of the new, recently introduced anticonvulsants  
25 (Lefevre & Aronson 2000).

The mechanism of action of the ketogenic diet is not yet understood (although, see below). It is clear, however, that the diet acts by a mechanism different from those of the conventional anticonvulsants. This is indicated by the fact that the diet is effective in cases where all of the known  
30 anticonvulsants have failed.

The ketogenic diet has a broad spectrum of anticonvulsant action. It is successful in controlling almost every type of seizure - including

seizures that are usually resistant to anticonvulsant drugs, such as complex partial seizures, and the seizures associated with the Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (Swink et al. 1997).

Many clinical studies report a subjective cognitive, psychotropic  
5 and behavior improvement in children on the ketogenic diet (Prasad et al. 1996). A recent prospective study has indicated statistically significant beneficial effects of the diet on cognition, behavior and social functioning in children with difficult-to-control seizures (Pulsifer et al. 2001). There are several other reasons to believe that ketogenic diet may have utility as a  
10 mood stabilizer (El-Mallakh & Paskitti 2001). These include the observation that some anticonvulsant interventions improve outcome in mood disorders. Such anticonvulsants as carbamazepine, valproate and clonazepam have been found to be effective in a variety of affective disorders including depression and bipolar illness (Ballenger & Post 1980, Lerer 1987, Pope  
15 1991, Bowden 1994, Retzow & Emrich 1998, Dietrich & Emrich 1998). The relationship between depression and epilepsy is two-directional - the patients with major depression also have a higher frequency of epilepsy and vice versa (Kanner & Nieto 1999). Finally, vagal nerve stimulation, a non-drug anticonvulsant procedure, may also be effective in both unipolar and bipolar  
20 illness (George et al. 2000).

The ketogenic diet has fewer side effects than most anticonvulsant drugs (Kinsman et al. 1992, Nigro et al. 1995, Mak et al. 1999). The side effects of the ketogenic diet relate mainly to intolerance to the rapid onset of ketosis, hypoglycaemia, refusal to drink fluids, lack of appetite, and  
25 nausea. These complications may occur when strict guidelines for the diet administration are not followed and, usually, these problems are easy to correct. A worrying side effect of the ketogenic diet is the rise of serum lipids and cholesterol, which occur in the majority of patients (Rios 2001, Lightstone et al. 2001, Swink et al. 1997).

30 Although it has few side effects, the ketogenic diet is not easy to maintain. The diet is unpalatable, and some children will not tolerate it. It must also be rigidly followed, since even a slight deviation - such as a single

cookie - can provoke a seizure. Children cannot take medications that contain sugar (which is common in many drugs produced for children) (McGhee & Katyal 2001), and must take vitamin supplements to compensate for the diet's nutritional deficiencies. Success with the diet usually depends on patient  
5 motivation. Less than 60% of children stay on the diet for 12 months (Hemingway et al. 2001).

Even when successful, children are seldom kept on the diet for more than 3 years, because of its unbalanced nutrition. In adults, the use of the diet is limited by fears of elevated cholesterol (Sirven et al. 1999). What is  
10 really needed is a novel anticonvulsant which can reproduce the therapeutic effects of the ketogenic diet, without the rigors of the diet itself.

Identification of the anticonvulsant mechanism of the ketogenic diet is difficult because the diet induces a cascade of metabolic changes. These include ketosis (i.e. elevation of plasma concentrations of beta-  
15 hydroxybutyrate, acetoacetate and acetone), changes in electrolytes, pH and water balance, a rise of lipids and fatty acids and other adaptational changes in brain metabolism (Wilder 1921, Lennox 1928, Millichap et al. 1964, Prasad et al. 1996, Schwartzkroin 1999).

Ketosis as a possible casual factor in seizure resistance has not  
20 been thoroughly investigated. A few early studies in the 20s and 30s (Wilder 1921, Helmholz & Keith 1930, Keith 1931, 1932a,b) suggested that blood ketones might have anticonvulsant properties. More recent studies on the correlation between the degree of ketosis and seizure resistance have been inconclusive.

25 Wilder (1921) initially suggested that the anticonvulsant effect of the KD was due to the "sedative" properties of acetoacetate. Experiments of Keith and Helmholz involving the thujone model of epileptic seizures seemed to support Wilder's hypothesis (Helmholz & Keith 1930, Keith 1931, 1932a,b). These experiments suggested that dehydration, acetoacetate and acetone  
30 might suppress epileptic attacks (Keith 1931, 1932a,b). The most marked anticonvulsant effects were found with acetoacetic acid and sodium acetoacetate (Keith 1932a). Beta-hydroxybutyrate was not anticonvulsant in

this model (Keith 1932b). The Keith's results are debatable. Keith did not provide the actual data supporting the "most marked" anticonvulsant effects of acetoacetic acid or sodium acetoacetate. Moreover, acetoacetate does not readily cross the blood brain barrier and, the present inventors have found  
5 that it is not effective against pentylenetetrazole and maximal electroshock seizures induced in mice or rats 15-30 min after intraperitoneal injection. At the same time, acetoacetate easily decomposes to form acetone. Therefore, it is possible that the effect of acetoacetate in the Keith's experiments was actually caused by the presence of acetone in the acetoacetate preparation,  
10 or was due to acetone formed through the metabolism of acetoacetate.

Huttenlocher (1976) reported that plasma levels of beta-hydroxybutyrate in epileptic children correlated significantly with the anticonvulsant effect of the ketogenic diet. No correlation was demonstrated for acetoacetate, but, nevertheless, the author suggested that either beta-  
15 hydroxybutyrate or acetoacetate (or both) might have direct anticonvulsant actions. Recent results in animal models of the ketogenic diet have both supported (Bough & Eagles 1999) and rejected (Bough et al. 1999, Likhodii et al. 2000) a direct relationship between the level of beta-hydroxybutyrate and seizure resistance. Hence, the correlation between beta-hydroxybutyrate and  
20 seizure resistance remains inconclusive.

Pretreatment with acetone, however, has protected rats against clonic-tonic convulsions induced by isonicotinic acid and electroshock (Kohli et al. 1967). Acetone given orally to mice seems to reduce the semicarbizide-induced convulsions and mortality (Jenney & Pfeiffer 1958). Two more recent  
25 reports from researchers concerned with acetone as an industrial pollutant have suggested that acetone inhibits electrically evoked seizure in 50% of rats exposed for 4 h to air containing acetone vapors (Vodickova et al. 1995, Frantik et al. 1996).

There remains a need for the development of therapeutic agents  
30 that can mimic the effect of the ketogenic diet for use in the treatment of epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present inventors have studied the mechanism of action of the ketogenic diet in a series of animal experiments. Data suggest that the ketogenic diet stops seizures by elevating acetone in the brain. The ketogenic diet elevates blood levels of three ketone bodies, acetoacetate, 5 beta-hydroxybutyrate and acetone. These ketones are also elevated in the brains of rats (see Figure 1, Likhodii & Burnham, unpublished data) and of children on the diet (Seymour et al. 1999). Acetone has proven to be anticonvulsant, whereas acetoacetate and beta-hydroxybutyrate have not 10 (Likhodii & Burnham, unpublished data).

The present inventors have further found that acetone suppresses seizures in a number of different animal models, including the maximal electroshock (MES) model (human analog: tonic-clonic seizures), the threshold pentylenetetrazole (PTZ) model (human analog: absence seizures), 15 the amygdala-kindling model (human analog: complex partial seizures with secondary generalization), and the AY9944 model (human analog, atypical absence, a component of the Lennox-Gastaut syndrome) (see Figure 2). The rotorod toxicity tests have demonstrated a significant separation between the therapeutic and toxic effects of acetone. Acetone given chronically for 28 20 days significantly delayed development of kindled seizures in rats and was well tolerated. One of the most important findings is that sub-toxic doses of acetone are effective against the kindled amygdala focus (see Figure 2). The amygdala-kindled focus is a model of complex partial seizures in humans (Albright & Burnham 1980). These are notoriously drug resistant.

25 The data implicating acetone in actions of the ketogenic diet are in agreement with the reports showing that acetone was significantly elevated in the brain of epileptic children which seizures were controlled by the ketogenic diet (Seymour et al. 1999). The concentrations of acetone in epileptic patients receiving the ketogenic diet treatment are consistent with the 30 degree of the diet's therapeutic effects (Lefevre & Aronson 2000, Hemingway et al. 2001).

The present inventors are therefore the first to confirm the involvement of acetone in the therapeutic effects of the ketogenic diet on epileptic seizures.

It has now been shown that certain acetone derivatives show  
5 higher anticonvulsant potency and improved therapeutic indexes over acetone itself. Hence these acetone derivatives are useful in the treatment of epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a method of treating a central nervous system disorder comprising administering, to an animal in  
10 need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof:



15 wherein

CX is selected from the group consisting of C=O and CR<sup>3</sup>-OH;

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl,  
20 branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,

provided that the compound of Formula I contains a longest continuous carbon chain of 15 carbon atoms or less

The invention also includes the use of an effective amount of  
25 compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to treat a central nervous system disorder. Further, the invention includes a use of an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to prepare a medicament to treat a central nervous system disorder.

30 The compounds of the above structure are useful in replicating therapeutic and anticonvulsant effects of acetone and – by extension – of the

ketogenic diet, but have higher potency and better therapeutic index (i.e. less side effects) and are more convenient to administer than the ketogenic diet.

Central nervous system disorders that may be treated using the method of the invention include, but are not limited to, epilepsy, mood disorders and affective disorders (such as depression, anxiety and unipolar and bipolar illnesses), and neuropathic pain conditions.

Preferably the central nervous system disorder is epilepsy. Accordingly, the present invention provides a method of treating epilepsy comprising administering to an animal in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof. The invention also includes the use of an effective amount of compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to treat epilepsy. Further, the invention includes a use of an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to prepare a medicament to treat epilepsy.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description. It should be understood, however, that the detailed description and the specific examples while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The invention will now be described in relation to the drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows portions proton ( $^1\text{H}$ ) NMR spectra from the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of a rat fed regular diet (bottom trace), and from a

rat fed the ketogenic diet (top trace). The spectra suggest significant elevation of brain acetone.

Figure 2 includes graphs showing the dose-response curves for acetone using maximal electroshock (MES), pentylenetetrazole (PTZ) and  
5 kindling models of seizure. Percent of animals protected from the seizures is shown as a function of logarithm of the acetone dose.

Figure 3 shows representative dose-response curves for compounds from Table 1 using maximal electroshock (MES) seizure test (filled circles) and rotorod toxicity test (open squares). Response shown as  
10 percent of animals protected from seizures (left curves) or percent animals that failed the rotorod test (right curves).

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

### **I. Method of the Invention**

The present inventors have shown that the ketogenic diet elicits  
15 its therapeutic effects by elevating acetone in the brain. In particular, they have shown that acetone injected intraperitoneally, raises seizure threshold in animal models of epileptic seizures.

The inventors have not only found that acetone is anticonvulsant, they have further found that acetone - like the ketogenic diet -  
20 has a broad spectrum of action. It suppresses seizures in a number of different animal models, including the maximal electroshock (MES) model (human analog: tonic-clonic seizures), the threshold pentylenetetrazole (PTZ) model (human analog: absence seizures), the amygdala-kindling model (human analog: complex partial seizures with secondary generalization), and  
25 the AY9944 model (human analog, atypical absence, a component of the Lennox-Gastaut syndrome).

For the first time, the present inventors have shown that modified acetone-like compounds are useful as anticonvulsants. These modified acetone compounds show higher anticonvulsant potency and  
30 improved therapeutic indexes over acetone itself.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a method of treating a central nervous system disorder comprising administering to an animal in

need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof:



5

wherein

CX is selected from the group consisting of C=O and CR<sup>3</sup>-OH;

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl;

10 R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,

provided that the compound of Formula I contains a longest continuous carbon chain of 15 carbon atoms or less.

15 The invention also includes the use of an effective amount of compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to treat a central nervous system disorder. Further, the invention includes a use of an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to prepare a medicament to treat a central nervous system  
20 disorder.

Central nervous system disorders that may be treated using the method of the invention include, but are not limited to, epilepsy, mood disorders and affective disorders (such as depression, anxiety and unipolar and bipolar illnesses), and neuropathic pain conditions.

25 The compounds of Formula I have been shown to act as effective anticonvulsants. Accordingly, the present invention provides a method of treating convulsions comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to an animal in need thereof. The invention also includes the use of an effective  
30 amount of compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, as an anticonvulsant. Further, the invention includes a use of an effective

amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to prepare a medicament to treat convulsions.

Preferably the central nervous system disorder is epilepsy. Accordingly, the present invention provides a method of treating epilepsy comprising administering to an animal in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof. The invention also includes the use of an effective amount of compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to treat epilepsy. Further, the invention includes a use of an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, to prepare a medicament to treat epilepsy.

The term an "effective amount" or a "sufficient amount " of an agent as used herein is that amount sufficient to effect beneficial or desired results, including clinical results, and, as such, an "effective amount" depends upon the context in which it is being applied. For example, in the context of administering an agent that is an anticonvulsant, an effective amount of an agent is, for example, an amount sufficient to achieve such a reduction in convulsions as compared to the response obtained without administration of the agent.

As used herein, and as well understood in the art, "treatment" is an approach for obtaining beneficial or desired results, including clinical results. Beneficial or desired clinical results can include, but are not limited to, alleviation or amelioration of one or more symptoms or conditions, diminishment of extent of disease, stabilized (i.e. not worsening) state of disease, preventing spread of disease, delay or slowing of disease progression, amelioration or palliation of the disease state, and remission (whether partial or total), whether detectable or undetectable. "Treatment" can also mean prolonging survival as compared to expected survival if not receiving treatment.

"Palliating" a disease or disorder means that the extent and/or undesirable clinical manifestations of a disorder or a disease state are

lessened and/or time course of the progression is slowed or lengthened, as compared to not treating the disorder.

To "inhibit" or "suppress" or "reduce" a function or activity, such as convulsions, is to reduce the function or activity when compared to  
5 otherwise same conditions except for a condition or parameter of interest, or alternatively, as compared to another conditions.

The term "animal" as used herein includes all members of the animal kingdom including human. The animal is preferably a human.

The term "solvate" as used herein means a compound of  
10 Formula I wherein molecules of a suitable solvent are incorporated in the crystal lattice. A suitable solvent is physiologically tolerable at the dosage administered. Examples of suitable solvents are ethanol, water and the like. When water is the solvent, the molecule is referred to as a "hydrate".

The term "alkyl" as used herein refers to a saturated carbon  
15 chain [i.e.  $-(CH_2)_nCH_3$ ]. The term "alkenyl" as used herein refers to carbon chains containing one or more double bonds (or units of unsaturation). When  $R^1$  and/or  $R^2$  is branched or unbranched alkenyl, the carbon chain may contain any number of double bonds, including compounds of Formula I that are fully unsaturated as well as those that contain only 1 double bond. It is  
20 preferred that, when  $R^1$  and/or  $R^2$  is branched or unbranched alkenyl in a compound of Formula I, that the compound of Formula I contain 1 or 2 double bonds.

The term  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl means branched or unbranched, saturated carbon chains containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms and includes methyl, ethyl, n-  
25 propyl, isopropyl, t-butyl and the like.

The compounds of Formula I extend to cover ketones and alcohol derivatives of acetone containing a carbon chain ranging from 3 to 15 carbons in length (including the carbon attached to the =O or -OH). The =O or -OH may be attached to the carbon chain at any position accept at a  
30 terminal carbon. In a preferred embodiment, the =O or -OH is attached to the "2-position" (i.e. the second carbon from the end) of  $R^1$  or  $R^2$ . The carbon chain may be branched and the invention extends to all such branched

compounds of Formula I provided that the longest continuous carbon chain contains 15 carbon atoms or less. It is preferred that the longest continuous carbon chain in a compound of Formula I contain 12 carbon atoms or less. Most preferably, the longest continuous carbon chain in a compound of

5 Formula I contains 10 carbon atoms or less. As defined above, the compounds of Formula I also include those wherein  $R^1$  and/or  $R^2$  contain one or more double bonds.

In embodiments of the method of the present invention, the compound of Formula I include those in which CX is selected from the group

10 consisting of C=O, and  $CR^3$ -OH. When CX is  $CR^3$ -OH,  $R^3$  is selected from H and  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl. Preferably,  $R^3$  is selected from H and  $C_{1-2}$ alkyl. More preferably,  $R^3$  is selected from H and methyl. In the most preferred embodiment of the present invention, CX is selected from the group consisting of C=O and CH-OH.

15 Some of the compounds of Formula I may have at least one asymmetric center. Where the compounds of Formula I have one asymmetric center, they may exist as enantiomers. Where the compounds of Formula I possess two or more asymmetric centers, they may additionally exist as diastereomers. It is to be understood that the use of all such isomers and

20 mixtures thereof in any proportion are encompassed within the scope of the present invention.

In further embodiments of the present invention, the compounds of Formula I for use in the methods of the present invention are selected from the group consisting of:

- 25 3-pentanone;  
4-heptanone;  
5-nonanone;  
2-butanone;  
2-pentanone;  
30 2-hexanone;  
2-heptanone;  
4-nonanone;

- 3-nonanone;
- 2-nonanone;
- 2-nonanol;
- 2-octanol;
- 5 2-pentanol; and
- 2-methyl-2-propanol.

Preferably, the compounds of Formula I for use in the methods of the present invention are selected from the group consisting of:

- 2-nonanone;
- 10 2-nonanol;
- 2-pentanol;
- 5-nonanone; and
- 2-methyl-2-propanol.

Compounds may be examined for their efficacy as

15 anticonvulsants using a number of different animal models, including the maximal electroshock (MES) model (human analog: tonic-clonic seizures) as described in Krall et al. (1978) and in Example 1 herein, the threshold pentylenetetrazole (PTZ) model (human analog: absence seizures) as described in Krall et al. (1978), the amygdala-kindling model (human analog:

20 complex partial seizures with secondary generalization) as described in Albright & Burnham (1980), and the AY9944 model (human analog, atypical absence, a component of the Lennox-Gastaut syndrome) as described in Cortez et al. (2001). The compounds may also be tested for their toxicity using standard assays, such as the standard rotorod assay as described in

25 Dunham & Miya (1957) and Wlaz & Loscher (1998) and in Example 1 herein. Based on the results of the anticonvulsant assay (typically expressed in units of  $ED_{50}$ ) and the toxicity assay (typically expressed in units of  $TD_{50}$ ) a therapeutic index may be calculated for each compound which is the ratio of  $TD_{50}/ED_{50}$ . The larger the therapeutic index, the more desirable the

30 compound for use in the methods of the invention.

The compounds of Formula I are preferably formulated into pharmaceutical compositions for administration to human subjects in a

biologically compatible form suitable for administration *in vivo*. Accordingly, in another aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

5           The compositions containing the compounds of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, can be prepared by known methods for the preparation of pharmaceutically acceptable compositions which can be administered to subjects, such that an effective quantity of the active substance is combined in a mixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable  
10   vehicle. Suitable vehicles are described, for example, in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Pa., USA 1985). On this basis, the compositions include, albeit not exclusively, solutions of the substances in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles or  
15   diluent, and contained in buffered solutions with a suitable pH and iso-osmotic with the physiological fluids.

          In accordance with the methods of the invention, the described compounds of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, may be administered to a patient in a variety of forms depending on the selected route  
20   of administration, as will be understood by those skilled in the art. The compounds or compositions of the invention may be administered, for example, by oral, parenteral, buccal, sublingual, nasal, rectal, patch, pump or transdermal administration and the pharmaceutical compositions formulated accordingly. Parenteral administration includes intravenous, intraperitoneal,  
25   subcutaneous, intramuscular, transepithelial, nasal, intrapulmonary, intrathecal, rectal and topical modes of administration. Parenteral administration may be by continuous infusion over a selected period of time.

          A compound Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, may be orally administered, for example, with an inert diluent or with  
30   an assimilable edible carrier, or it may be enclosed in hard or soft shell gelatin capsules, or it may be compressed into tablets, or it may be incorporated directly with the food of the diet. For oral therapeutic administration, the

compound Formula I may be incorporated with excipient and used in the form of ingestible tablets, buccal tablets, troches, capsules, elixirs, suspensions, syrups, wafers, and the like.

A compound Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, may also be administered parenterally or intraperitoneally. Solutions of a compound Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, can be prepared in water suitably mixed with a surfactant such as hydroxypropylcellulose. Dispersions can also be prepared in glycerol, liquid polyethylene glycols, DMSO and mixtures thereof with or without alcohol, and in oils. Under ordinary conditions of storage and use, these preparations contain a preservative to prevent the growth of microorganisms. A person skilled in the art would know how to prepare suitable formulations. Conventional procedures and ingredients for the selection and preparation of suitable formulations are described, for example, in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (1990 - 18th edition) and in The United States Pharmacopeia: The National Formulary (USP 24 NF19) published in 1999.

The pharmaceutical forms suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions or dispersion and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersions. In all cases the form must be sterile and must be fluid to the extent that easy syringability exists.

Compositions for nasal administration may conveniently be formulated as aerosols, drops, gels and powders. Aerosol formulations typically comprise a solution or fine suspension of the active substance in a physiologically acceptable aqueous or non-aqueous solvent and are usually presented in single or multidose quantities in sterile form in a sealed container, which can take the form of a cartridge or refill for use with an atomising device. Alternatively, the sealed container may be a unitary dispensing device such as a single dose nasal inhaler or an aerosol dispenser fitted with a metering valve which is intended for disposal after use. Where the dosage form comprises an aerosol dispenser, it will contain a propellant which can be a compressed gas such as compressed air or an organic

propellant such as fluorochlorohydrocarbon. The aerosol dosage forms can also take the form of a pump-atomizer.

Compositions suitable for buccal or sublingual administration include tablets, lozenges, and pastilles, wherein the active ingredient is formulated with a carrier such as sugar, acacia, tragacanth, or gelatin and glycerine. Compositions for rectal administration are conveniently in the form of suppositories containing a conventional suppository base such as cocoa butter.

The dosage of the compounds of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, and/or compositions of the invention can vary depending on many factors such as the pharmacodynamic properties of the compound, the mode of administration, the age, health and weight of the recipient, the nature and extent of the symptoms, the frequency of the treatment and the type of concurrent treatment, if any, and the clearance rate of the compound in the animal to be treated. One of skill in the art can determine the appropriate dosage based on the above factors. The compounds of the invention may be administered initially in a suitable dosage that may be adjusted as required, depending on the clinical response.

The compounds of the invention can be used alone or in combination with other agents that have anticonvulsant activity or in combination with other types of treatment for epilepsy or other neurological disorders.

### **III. Methods of Preparing Compounds of Formula I**

Compounds of Formula I are either commercially available or may be prepared using standard procedures known to a person skilled in the art. For example, compounds of Formula I, wherein CX is  $\text{CR}^3\text{-OH}$  (wherein  $\text{R}^3$  is H) may be prepared from the corresponding ketones using standard reducing agents such as hydride reducing agents. Correspondingly, compounds of Formula I wherein CX is  $\text{C=O}$  are available from their corresponding alcohols using standard oxidation conditions or from a corresponding olefin by oxidation (see for example, Monflier, E. et al. (1995), Alper, H. et al. (1985)). Alternate syntheses of compounds of Formula I, may

be found in, for example, the following references: Kamimura, Y. et al. (2000); Takikawa, H. et al. (1997); Cherkaoui, H. et al. (2001); Macho, V. et al. (1998); Jewett, D.K. et al. (1996); Ebert & Klein (1991); Markevich, V.S. et al. (1985); Arase, A. (1984); Brown & Wetherill (1993).

5                    In some cases the chemistries outlined above may have to be modified, for instance by use of protective groups, to prevent side reactions due to reactive groups, such as reactive groups attached as substituents. This may be achieved by means of conventional protecting groups, for example as described in "Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry" McOmie, J.F.W. Ed., Plenum Press, 1973 and in Greene, T.W. and Wuts, P.G.M.,  
10                    "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", John Wiley & Sons, 1991.

                    The formation of solvates of the compounds of Formula I will vary depending on the compound and the solvate. In general, solvates are formed by dissolving the compound in the appropriate solvent and isolating  
15                    the solvate by cooling or using an antisolvent. The solvate is typically dried or azeotroped under ambient conditions.

                    Prodrugs of the compounds of Formula I may be conventional esters formed with an available hydroxy group. For example, when in a compound of Formula I, CX is CH-OH, the OH group may be acylated using  
20                    an activated acid in the presence of a base, and optionally, in inert solvent (e.g. an acid chloride in pyridine). Some common esters which have been utilized as prodrugs are phenyl esters, aliphatic (C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>) esters, acyloxymethyl esters, carbamates and amino acid esters.

                    The following non-limiting examples are illustrative of the  
25                    present invention:

### **EXAMPLES**

#### **Example 1: Anticonvulsant Activity and Therapeutic Index**

##### **Objective.**

                    The objective of these experiments was to measure the  
30                    anticonvulsant activity of compounds structurally related to acetone. The measurements established the structure-activity relationship, potency and toxicity and the therapeutic index.

**Methods.**

Male CF-1 mice, weighing 28-30g g, were used as subjects (Charles River Canada, La Prairie, Quebec, Canada). Three to five subjects per drug dose were used to prescreen each compound for anticonvulsant activity. Prescreening involved injecting subjects with the drug at doses of 3, 6 mM/kg and assessing activity and toxicity 30 min later. Promising compounds progressed to dose-response studies, which employed at least 50 subjects, 10 subjects per dose.

Compounds were dissolved in oil and injected intraperitoneally. Preliminary experiments with sham injections confirmed that oil, used as a vehicle in these experiments, did not have anticonvulsant activity.

Toxicity of the injected drugs was assessed using the standard rotorod test (Dunham & Miya 1957, Wlaz & Loscher 1998). The test was administered about 25 minutes after the injection. In brief, the diameter of a rotating rod was about 5 cm and the number of revolutions per minute was set at 6 rpm. Mice were placed on the rod so that it was rotated toward the animal. Animals that were not able to maintain their equilibrium on the rod for 1 min were again put on the rod a further two times. Only mice that were unable to stay on the rod three sequential 1-min trials were considered to exhibit a neurological deficit.

Thirty minutes after drug injection, the MES seizure threshold test was administered. We used the procedure of Krall et al. (1978). In brief, a seizure was induced using the electrical current applied via corneal electrodes. The current was set to 50 mA with a 60 Hz sine wave pulse configuration and train duration of 0.2 sec. Seizure protection was defined in this model as a failure to extend the hind limbs to an angle greater than 90 degrees during the tonic period of the convulsion.

Data analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism software package (GraphPad Software Inc, San Diego, CA, USA). Both dose-response and toxicity data were fitted using non-linear sigmoidal dose-response model with variable slope:  $Y = \text{Bottom} + (\text{Top} - \text{Bottom}) / (1 + 10^{((\text{LogED}_{50} - X) * \text{HillSlope}))}$ , where X is the logarithm of drug concentration, and Y is the response. ED<sub>50</sub>

and  $TD_{50}$ , which are the concentrations that give a response in 50% subjects in seizure and toxicity tests, were calculated. Therapeutic index (TI) was calculated as a ratio of  $TD_{50}/ED_{50}$ .

### Results.

5                   Figure 3 displays the results of some of the dose-response experiments and corresponding non-linear sigmoidal fits for each data set. Table 1 summarizes the MES dose-response and rotorod toxicity data. Structurally, the tested compounds differ from acetone due to the extension of the length/number of carbons either on one (Series I) or both (Series II) of the  
10   aliphatic chains, or by shifting (Series III) or replacing the keto group (Series IV).

                  The  $ED_{50}$  and  $TD_{50}$  values in the Table 1 are given as mM/kg of body weight. Our procedures were first validated using the standard anticonvulsant, valproate ( $ED_{50}=1.4$  mM/kg,  $TD_{50}=3.8$  mM/kg,  $TI=2.7$ ). Five  
15   series of experiments then explored the effects of structural variations on activity.

                  The data suggest a specific binding site for acetone, since small changes in structure cause large changes in anticonvulsant activity (see Table 1). The following data indicate the involvement of a protein receptor: 1) the  
20   cooperativity effect (steep slope) for 2-butanone (Series II), and 2) the sudden increase in potency for 2-nonanone (Series III). Series IV suggests that C=O and OH may play a role in binding to the receptor. Some alcohols are already known to interact with selective neural proteins, including ion channels, kinases and transporters (Harris 1999). The absence of anticonvulsant activity  
25   in such acetone analogues as methoxyacetone and ethyl acetoacetate (Series V) suggests the role of a hydrophobic site in binding to a receptor; incorporation of electronegative O abolished anticonvulsant activity.

                  As Table 1 indicates, most of the compounds tested are as potent or more potent than acetone, which has an  $ED_{50}$  of 16 mM/kg in our  
30   hands. Many also have a better therapeutic index than acetone, which has an index of 2.2 using the methods described herein. In fact, many also have a better therapeutic index than the standard anticonvulsant, valproate, which

has a therapeutic index of 2.7 using the methods described herein. One of the newly discovered compounds (2-nonanone) has an index of 9.4, which is 3.5 times better than valproate.

## 5 **Conclusions.**

The data on structure-activity relationships suggest that the proposed anticonvulsants work by the same mechanism as their parent compound – acetone. The mechanism of their action, therefore, replicates the unique effect of the ketogenic diet capable of antagonizing epileptic seizures, which do not respond to current drug therapies. The proposed anticonvulsants, which have higher potency and better therapeutic index than acetone, may significantly improve the control of intractable seizures.

While the present invention has been described with reference to what are presently considered to be the preferred examples, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed examples. To the contrary, the invention is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

All publications, patents and patent applications are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety to the same extent as if each individual publication, patent or patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference in its entirety.

**Table 1.** Summary of the structure-activity, dose-response experiments with acetone analogs.

<b>Series I – Elongating both side chains</b>				
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Structure</u></b>	<b>ED<sub>50</sub> (slope)</b>	<b>TD<sub>50</sub> (slope)</b>	<b>TI</b>
Acetone	$\text{CH}_3-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_3$	16.2 (60.3)	35.2 (16.1)	2.2
3-Pentanone	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$	3.3 (16.9)	7.6 (14.7)	2.3
4-Heptanone	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$	2.0 (3.2)	4.7 (5.2)	2.4
5-Nonanone	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$	3.6 (2.2)	13.2 (11.0)	3.6

5

<b>Series II – Elongating a side chain</b>				
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Structure</u></b>	<b>ED<sub>50</sub> (slope)</b>	<b>TD<sub>50</sub> (slope)</b>	<b>TI</b>
2-Butanone	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_3$	5.8 (114.6)	10.0 (12.6)	1.7
2-Pentanone	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_3$	3.3 (11.5)	7.2 (7.7)	2.2
2-Hexanone	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_3$	2.4 (6.5)	4.4 (4.9)	1.8
2-Heptanone	$\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH}_2-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_3$	2.8 (1.7)	6.0 (2.0)	2.2

Table 1 continued on next page...

Table 1. Continued.

Series III – Shifting C=O position				
<u>Name</u>	<u>Structure</u>	<u>ED<sub>50</sub></u> (slope)	<u>TD<sub>50</sub></u> (slope)	<u>TI</u>
5-Nonanone	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$	3.6 (2.2)	13.2 (11.0)	3.6
4-Nonanone	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$	5.0 (4.5)	16.3 (4.9)	3.3
3-Nonanone	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$	9.6 (5.4)	20.9 (4.5)	2.2
2-Nonanone	$\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{  }}{\text{C}}}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$	1.7 (3.5)	15.9 (3.3)	9.4

5

Series IV – Replacing =O with -OH and branching				
<u>Name</u>	<u>Structure</u>	<u>ED<sub>50</sub></u> (slope)	<u>TD<sub>50</sub></u> (slope)	<u>TI</u>
2-Nonanol	$\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_6\overset{\text{OH}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{CH}_3$	1.2 (1.2)	5.0 (23.3)	4.3
2-Octanol	$\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_5\overset{\text{OH}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{CH}_3$	2.0 (61.7)	3.9 (20.6)	1.9
2-Pentanol	$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\overset{\text{OH}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$	1.6 (63.9)	5.7 (37.1)	3.7
2-Methyl-2-Propanol	$\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\   \\ \text{CH}_3-\text{C}-\text{OH} \\   \\ \text{CH}_3 \end{array}$	3.4 (3.7)	11.4 (27.8)	3.4

Table 1 continued on next page...

Table 1 Continued.

Series V – Inactive analogues			
Name	Structure	Name	Structure
Butyl acetate	$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\    \\ \text{CH}_3 - \text{C} - \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3 \end{array}$	Methoxyacetone	$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\    \\ \text{CH}_3 - \text{C} - \text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_3 \end{array}$
1,4-Pentanediol	$\begin{array}{c} \text{OH} \\   \\ \text{CH}_3 - \text{CH} - \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH} \end{array}$	Ethyl acetoacetate	$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \qquad \text{O} \\    \qquad \quad    \\ \text{CH}_3 - \text{C} - \text{CH}_2 - \text{C} - \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3 \end{array}$

5

**Note for Table 1.** The ED<sub>50</sub> and TD<sub>50</sub> values in the Table 1 are given as mM/kg of body weight. Techniques were first validated using the standard anticonvulsant, valproate (ED<sub>50</sub>=1.4 mM/kg, TD<sub>50</sub>=3.8 mM/kg, TI=2.7). Several series of experiments then explored the effects of structural variations on activity. The following data suggest the involvement of a specific receptor: 1) the cooperativity effect (steep slope) for 2-Butanone (Series II), and 2) the sudden increase in potency for 2-Nonanone (Series III). Series IV suggests that C=O and OH may play a role in binding to the receptor. The inactivity of compounds from Series V suggests the role of a hydrophobic site; incorporation of electronegative O abolishes anticonvulsant activity.

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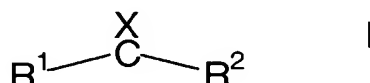
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**WE CLAIM:**

1. A method of treating a central nervous system disorder  
 5 comprising administering to an animal in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof:



10 wherein

CX is selected from the group consisting of C=O and CR<sup>3</sup>-OH;

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl,  
 15 branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,

provided that the compound of Formula I contains a longest continuous carbon chain of 15 carbon atoms or less.

20 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the longest continuous carbon chain in a compound of Formula I contains 12 carbon atoms or less.

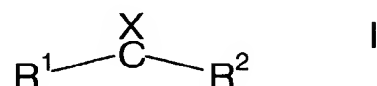
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the longest  
 25 continuous carbon chain in a compound of Formula I contains 10 carbon atoms or less.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is selected from H and C<sub>1-2</sub>alkyl.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is selected from H and methyl.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein CX is selected from  
5 the group consisting of C=O and CH-OH.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound of Formula I is selected from the group consisting of:  
3-pentanone;  
10 4-heptanone;  
5-nonanone;  
2-butanone;  
2-pentanone;  
2-hexanone;  
15 2-heptanone;  
4-nonanone;  
3-nonanone;  
2-nonanone;  
2-nonanol;  
20 2-octanol;  
2-pentanol; and  
2-methyl-2-propanol.
8. The method according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein the  
25 neurological disorder is selected from the group consisting of epilepsy, mood disorders, affective disorders and neuropathic pain conditions.
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the neurological disorder is epilepsy.

10. A method of treating convulsions comprising administering, to an animal in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof:

5



wherein

CX is selected from the group consisting of C=O and CR<sup>3</sup>-OH;

10 R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,

15 provided that the compound of Formula I contains a longest continuous carbon chain of 15 carbon atoms or less.

11. A use, to treat a central nervous system disorder, of an effective amount of compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof:

20



wherein

25 CX is selected from the group consisting of C=O and CR<sup>3</sup>-OH;

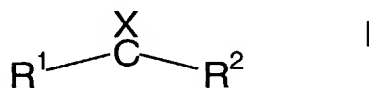
R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl; and

30 R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,

provided that the compound of Formula I contains a longest continuous carbon chain of 15 carbon atoms or less.

12. A use, to prepare a medicament to treat a central nervous system disorder, of an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof:



10

wherein

CX is selected from the group consisting of C=O and CR<sup>3</sup>-OH;

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl;

- 15 R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl; and

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,

provided that the compound of Formula I contains a longest continuous carbon chain of 15 carbon atoms or less.

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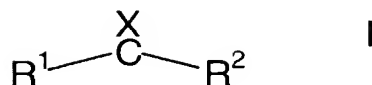
13. The use according to any one of claims 11-12, wherein the neurological disorder is selected from the group consisting of epilepsy, mood disorders, affective disorders and neuropathic pain conditions.

- 25 14. The use according to claim 13, wherein the neurological disorder is epilepsy.

15. The use of a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, as an anticonvulsant:

30

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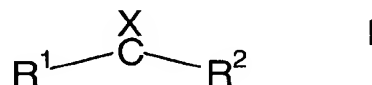


wherein

CX is selected from the group consisting of C=O and CR<sup>3</sup>-OH;

- 5 R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl;  
 R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl; and  
 R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 10 provided that the compound of Formula I contains a longest continuous carbon chain of 15 carbon atoms or less.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I, or hydrates, solvates or prodrugs thereof, and a pharmaceutically  
 15 acceptable carrier or diluent:

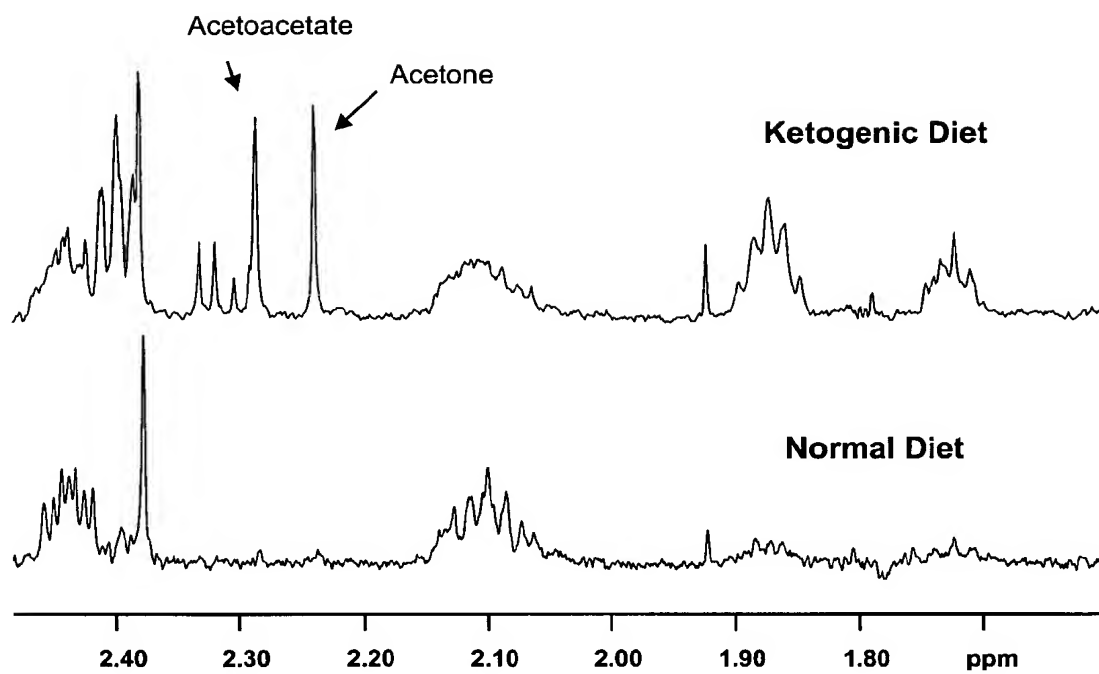


wherein

- 20 CX is selected from the group consisting of C=O and CR<sup>3</sup>-OH;  
 R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl;  
 R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, unbranched alkyl, branched alkenyl and unbranched alkenyl; and  
 25 R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H and C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 provided that the compound of Formula I contains a longest continuous carbon chain of 15 carbon atoms or less.

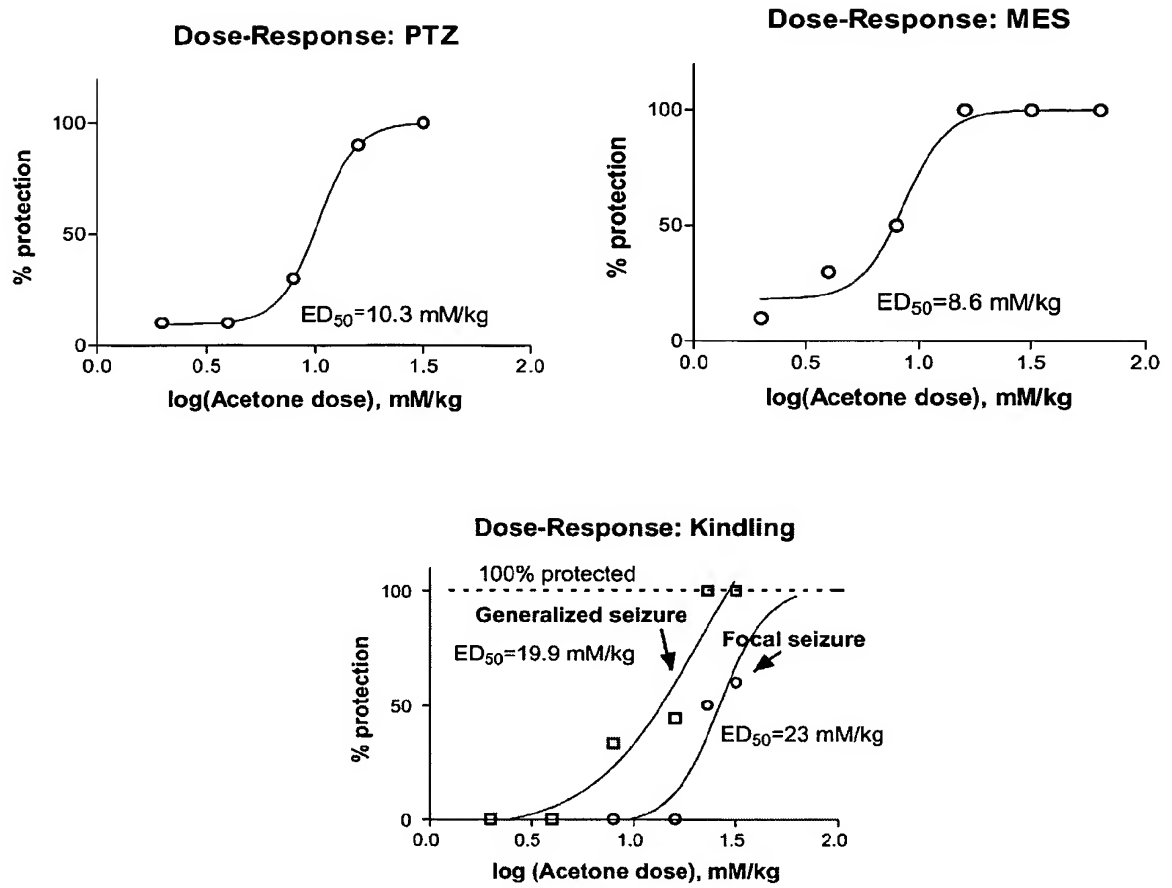
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FIGURE 1



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FIGURE 2



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FIGURE 3

